

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Advisory Action dated April 6, 2005 in which the Examiner refused to enter the Second Amendment After Final Rejection dated March 11, 2005. Claims 1 to 18, 22 to 55 and 57 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1 and 54 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The Advisory Action indicated that the Second Amendment raised new issues primarily because the word "each" in Claim 21 was replaced with the phrase "at least one of" in Claims 1 and 54. This matter was discussed with the Examiner in a telephone interview conducted April 21, 2005. During the interview, the Examiner stated that if an amendment were presented that amended the independent claims identically according to the allowable subject matter of dependent Claim 21, that the Amendment would be entered.

In keeping with this indication, Claims 19 to 21 have been cancelled, and the substance thereof incorporated into each of independent Claims 1 and 54. Entry of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action dated November 30, 2004, all claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. The subject matter forming the basis for the rejection has been cancelled from the claims, without conceding the correctness of the rejection.

The November 30, 2004 Office Action further rejected Claims 1 to 3, 5 to 7, 9 to 18, 36 to 44, 55 and 57 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over the article "The Phoenix Framework: A Practical Architecture For Programmable Networks" (Yadav), Claims 4 and 8 under § 103(a) over Yadav in view of U.S. Patent 5,926,539 (Shtivelman), and Claims 19, 20 and 54 under § 103(a) over Yadav in view of U.S. Patent 6,073,184. The foregoing actions were taken without conceding the correctness of these rejections, in an effort to advance this case toward allowance.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all of Claims 1 to 18, 22 to 55 and 57 are fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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